

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A capacitor-based biodetector for statically and/or dynamically detecting one or more substances of interest comprising:

a plurality of first electrodes, comprising two or more groupings of first electrodes that are not coupled by an electrical conductor;

a second electrode;

a plurality of nanogaps between said plurality of first electrodes and said second electrode;
one or more nanogaps having one or more probe molecules attached therein; said probe molecules and able to attach to said one or more substances of interest;

means for exposing said capacitor-based biodetector to a material suspected to contain one or more substances of interest; and

means for measuring one or more dielectric properties at one or more frequency ranges of said nanogaps said means measuring dielectric properties separately at said first electrodes; said means using measuring jointly at said second electrode.;

~~thereby statically and/or dynamical detecting presence of said one or more substances of interest.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A capacitor-based biodetector for statically and/or dynamically detecting conformations of one or more substances of interest comprising:

a plurality of first electrodes, comprising two or more groupings of first electrodes that are not coupled by an electrical conductor;

a second electrode;

a plurality of nanogaps between said plurality of first electrodes and said second electrode;
and

means for measuring one or more dielectric properties at one or more frequency ranges of said nanogaps said means measuring dielectric properties separately at said first electrodes; said means using measuring jointly at said second electrode.;

~~thereby statically and/or dynamical detecting presence of said one or more substances of interest.~~

3. (WITHDRAWN): A method of fabricating a nanogap device comprising:
 - placing a first selectively removable layer on a substrate surface, said substrate surface defining a horizontal orientation;
 - selectively removing a plurality of channels in said first layer, said channels characterized by a channel width and channel walls substantially vertical to said substrate surface;
 - placing a second selectively removable layer over said channels such that said second layer coats vertical sides of said channels without filling said channels, said vertical coating characterized by a vertical coating width;
 - placing a third layer over said layers such that said third layer fills said channels;
 - removing a vertical portion to expose a surface comprising regions of said first layer and regions of said third layer separated by regions of said second layer; and
 - removing said second layer to create a device having regions of said first layer and said third layer separated by gaps having widths largely determined by said vertical coating width.
4. (WITHDRAWN): The method of claim 3 further comprising:
 - placing a fourth selectively removable layer on said second layer prior to said selectively removing a plurality of channels.
5. (WITHDRAWN): The method of claim 3 further comprising:
 - selective removing a horizontal portion of said second layer prior to said placing said third layer.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The biodetector of claim 1 further wherein:
 - said nanogaps are situated on a substrate; and
 - said substrate comprises an upper layer of SiN and a lower layer of Si.
7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The biodetector of claim 6 further wherein:
 - said nanogaps are defined by containment walls comprising Poly-Si.
8. (CANCELLED):

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The biodetector of claim 6 further wherein:
said nanogaps are situated on a substrate; and
said substrate comprises any appropriate material for fabricating nanoscale devices.
10. (WITHDRAWN): The method of claim 3 further wherein:
said first and/or said third layer comprises any material that can be deposited on and
selectively removed from said substrate.
11. (WITHDRAWN): The method of claim 3 further wherein:
said second layer comprises any material that can be deposited so as to provide a layer of
appropriate thickness in said channels.
12. (WITHDRAWN): The method of claim 3 further wherein:
said channel width is a width near a smallest channel width achievable using selective
mask etching.
13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The biodetector of claim 1 further wherein:
said nanogaps have a gap width of approximately 50 nm.
14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The biodetector of claim 1 further wherein:
said nanogaps have a gap width between approximately 5 nm and 100 nm.
15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The biodetector of claim 1 further comprising:
self-assembled monolayer (SAM) probe molecules in said gap.
16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The biodetector of claim 15 further wherein:
said self-assembled monolayer (SAM) probe molecules comprise single-strand
oligonucleotides;
said one or more substances of interest comprising ligands comprising one or more
suspected complementary single-strand oligonucleotides;
said detecting comprises detecting bindings of said ligands to said probe molecules by
measuring a capacitance across said gap; and
said bindings comprise hybridization of said probe molecule and said ligands.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The biodetector of claim 16 further wherein:
said probe molecules are in a solid state during detecting;
capacitance is measured at a range of frequency within a range of about 75 kHz to about 5
MHZ using two parallel electrodes with capacitance measured between them; and
said probe is a relatively short nucleotide probe of 20mer to 40mer.
18. (ORIGINAL): A capacitor-based biodetector comprising:
a plurality of parallel electrodes arranged on a substrate with nanogaps between them;
a plurality of receptor probe molecules arranged between said electrodes in said nanogaps;
circuitry for measuring capacitance between pairs of said electrodes.
19. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further wherein:
said nanogaps are parallel to said substrate.
20. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further wherein:
said gaps are perpendicular to said substrate.
21. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further wherein:
said nanogaps are between 5 to 100 nm.
22. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further wherein:
said probe molecules comprise one or more selected from the group:
self-assembled monolayers (SAM) in said gaps;
single-strand oligonucleotides;
single-strand DNA; or
amino acid templates.
23. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further wherein:
said probe molecules comprise biologic sequence of between 20 and 60 base pairs.
24. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further wherein:
said circuitry is able to measure at a range of frequency within a range of about 25 kHz to
about 10 MHZ.

25. (ORIGINAL): The device according to claim 18 further comprising:
nanoplumbing features to move substances to appropriate positions of said device.
26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A nanogap hybrid device comprising:
a plurality of nanogap means systematically arranged in a solid state fabricated structure;
a plurality of receptor molecules arranged in said gaps; and
means for detecting capacitance across said gaps.
27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A nanogap hybrid device for detecting one or more substances of interest comprising:
a plurality of nanogap means systematically arranged in a solid state fabricated structure;
a plurality of receptor molecules arranged in said gaps; and
means for exposing said one or more substances of interest to ~~an integrated solid state~~ said nanogap means ~~hybrid device~~, said nanogap means ~~device~~ having arranged therein one or more of said receptor molecules, said molecules able to attach to said one or more substances of interest;
means for measuring electronic characteristics of interest in small regions of said device;
and
means for using measured electronic characteristics to signal the presence of said one or more substances of interest.
28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The device according to claim 26 further wherein:
~~said device is creating using nanotechnology batch fabrication techniques;~~
said device comprises polysilicon chips riddled with nanogap junctions;
immobilized within each nanogap is at least one strand of ~~reference~~ single-strand DNA;
and comprising means for applying a voltage is applied ~~is applied~~ across one or more of said nanogap junctions and a measurement is taken of capacitance;
means for determining ~~wherein capacitance is determined~~ by the dielectric (insulating) property of the material in the nanogap, which changes as a result of hybridization; and
means for ~~wherein detecting is accomplished by~~ adding a sample DNA and measuring a difference of capacitance after hybridization.

29. (WITHDRAWN) A capacitor-based nanogap device comprising:
- a plurality of nanogap junctions arrays, each array comprising a plurality of nanogap junctions;
 - a nanofluidic network connecting to said plurality of arrays; and
 - a plurality of electrode connections for connecting electrical signals to said arrays.
30. (WITHDRAWN): The device according to claim 29 further comprising:
- a plurality of receptor probe molecules arranged in said nanogap junctions.
31. (WITHDRAWN): The device according to claim 29 further comprising:
- a covering over said plurality of arrays, said covering having at least one inlet and at least one outlet.
32. (WITHDRAWN): A method of fabricating a nanogap device comprising:
- placing a first selectively removable electrode layer on a substrate surface, said substrate surface defining a horizontal orientation;
 - selectively removing a portion of said first selectively removable electrode material;
 - attaching a sacrificial molecular layer to a portion of said first electrode material;
 - placing a second selectively removable electrode layer on a substrate surface, said second electrode layer abutting said sacrificial molecular layer;
 - removing said sacrificial molecular layer to form a nanogap channel between said electrode layers.